



U.S. Department of Justice

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For Immediate Release:

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EVENT: Guilty Pleas

DEFENDANTS: DAMONNE BRANTLEY, 35, Atlanta, Georgia
REGINALD DANCY, 35, Detroit, Michigan
RAYSHON BRAGGS, 32, Atlanta, Georgia
DARRYL GOODEN, 34, Birmingham, Alabama
MORRIS WALLER, II, 37, Detroit, Michigan
SHERARD KING, 32, Detroit, Michigan
LEONARD RAY BRANTLEY, JR., 38, Detroit, Michigan
RORY D. JONES, 38, Detroit, Michigan

Major Drug Traffickers Plead Guilty

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced that eight residents of Detroit, Michigan and Atlanta, Georgia entered a plea of guilty in federal court to charges that they participated in a large volume cocaine distribution conspiracy during the period of 1990 - 2003 in Detroit, Atlanta and Birmingham, Alabama. The indictment charged that the operation involved at least 1,000 kilograms and proceeds of at least \$20 million and that the group used violence, threats, and firearms to protect the drug trafficking activities of the enterprise. The group operated through the illegal activities of two gangs known as the "Detroit Boys" in Birmingham, AL, and the "Puritan Avenue Gang" in Detroit.

Entering guilty pleas before United States District Judge Nancy G. Edmunds were
Damonne Brantley, Reginald Dancy, Rayshon Braggs, Darryl Gooden, Morris Waller, II,

Sherard King, and Leonard Ray Brantley. Rory D. Jones, who was also charged in the case, entered a guilty plea to conspiring to distribute marijuana in a case before United States District Judge Victoria A. Roberts. Dancy also entered a guilty plea to the marijuana conspiracy case before Judge Roberts. Mr. Murphy stated that, “The information presented to the court during the case showed that the defendants not only sold large quantities of cocaine which reached the streets of these cities but also used intimidation and violence to promote their illegal business. The prosecution of the activities of this gang, whose members had operated with virtual impunity for many years, contributes to the safety of the people of Detroit, Atlanta and Birmingham.”

Murphy added that “Sentencing of the defendants will take place on a date to be set by the court. Damonne Brantley, Reginald Dancy, and Rayshon Braggs each face a penalty of 20 years in prison or a fine of \$4 million, or both. Darryl Gooden, Sherard King, and Morris Waller, II face penalties of up to 10 years in prison or a fine of \$4 million. Leonard Ray Brantley, Jr. who pled guilty to money laundering charges, faces a sentence of up to three years and a fine of up to \$30,000. Rory D. Jones faces a penalty of up to 151 months and fine of \$4 million. The sentences will be imposed under the United States Sentence Guidelines according to the nature of the offense and the criminal background, if any, of the defendant.”

Murphy congratulated the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division, for the successful conclusion of their three-year investigation and thanked the Detroit Police Department and other state and local law enforcement departments all over the country for their substantial assistance in this prosecution. Prosecution of this case was handled by Assistant United States Attorney’s Ross Parker and Carl Gilmer-Hill. Defendants Damonne Brantley, Reginald Dancy, Rayshon Braggs and Darryl Gooden continue to be detained, and the other defendants' bonds were continued.